

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-4, 7-14, and 17-20 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 15, and 16 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 10, 11, and 20 are amended. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority based on Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-356657.

Drawings

The Examiner has not indicated whether the drawings are accepted. Clarification in the next official communication is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, and 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bukosky et al.(U.S. 6,745,325).

Further, claims 2, 7, 12, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bukosky et al.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1 and 11

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1 and 11 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a rear view mirror assembly, including *inter alia*

said mirror housing including:

a first lens for covering said turn indicator light for enabling illumination therethrough; and

a second lens for covering said position light for enabling illumination therethrough,

wherein the first lens is larger than the second lens, so as to encompass a substantial part of a periphery of the second lens.

Support for the novel features set forth in claims 1 and 11 can be seen, for example, in FIG. 4.

By contrast, as can be seen in Bukosky et al. FIG. 7, this document merely discloses second aperture 32 covered by translucent substrate 80 having a plurality of lenses 83 on one side of the apparatus 10, and discrete apertures 51 formed on mirror 40 on the other side of the apparatus 10. Thus the Bulosky et al. document fails to suggest a first lens for covering said turn indicator light for enabling illumination therethrough; and a second lens for covering said position light for enabling illumination therethrough, wherein the first lens is

larger than the second lens, so as to encompass a substantial part of a periphery of the second lens (as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11 as amended herein).

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 11 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Bukosky et al., at least for the reason explained above.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 11 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 10 and 20 are amended merely to reflect the changes to claims 1 and 11, respectively.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/726,194
Amendment dated May 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 9, 2005

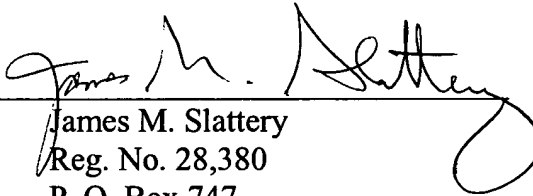
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Art Unit: 2875
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If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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